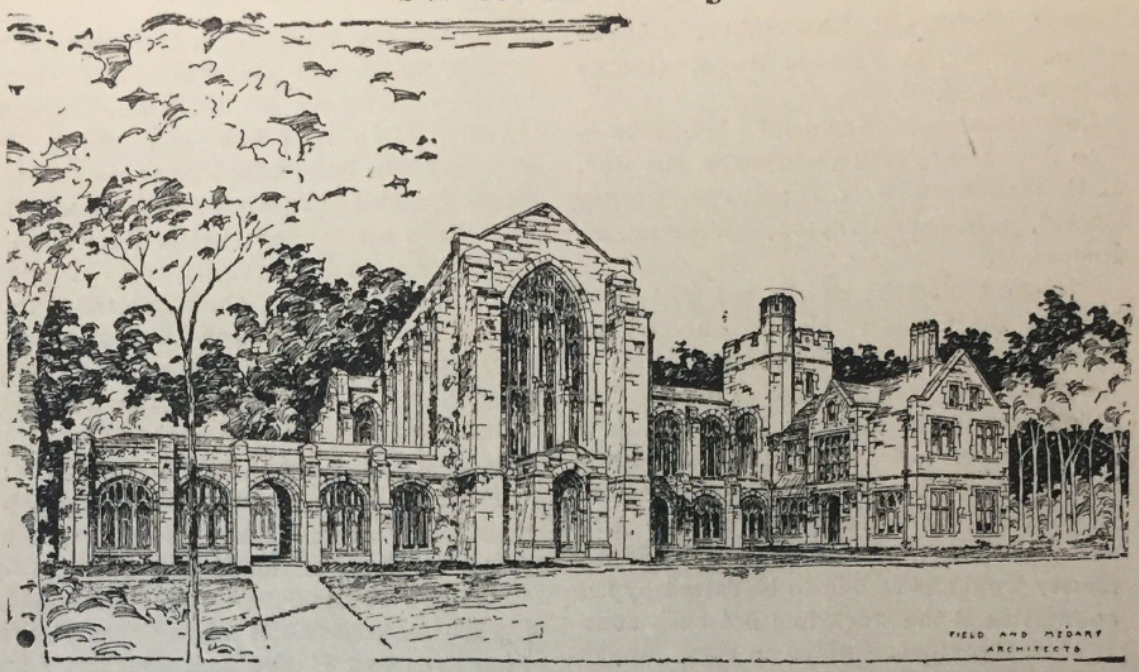
"For God and Country.




Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

# The Washington Chapel Chronicle

## Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.**

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## The Washington Memorial Committee

### For Completion of the Chapel at Valley Forge.

The most important step taken in the history of the Washington Memorial Chapel is the appointment of "The Washington Memorial Committee for the Completion of the Chapel at Valley Forge." This committee was appointed by Bishop Garland to whom has been assigned by Bishop Rhinelander the Convocations of West Philadelphia, Chester and Norristown. Bishop Garland has always been deeply interested in the Washington Memorial Chapel, and at the meeting of the Convocation at Norristown announced that he would undertake as a part of his work in the Convocation the completion of the Chapel. The committee consists of the following:

The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Garland, D. D.; the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, John E. Baird, T. Broom Belfield, A. J. Drexel Biddle, George R. Bower, Reynolds D. Brown, J. C. Buck, B. Frank Clapp, Joseph Hornor Coates, William Drayton, Morris Earle, W. W. Frazier, Stevens Hechscher, Geo. M. Henderson, Francis A. Lewis, Ewing L. Miller, W. D. Neilson, William H.

Reeves, Thomas E. Shoemaker, Charlemagne Tower, R. Francis Wood, George Woodward, M. D.

Committe on Memorial Windows.—The Rev. Henry Martyn Medary, the Rev. L. C. Washburn, S. T. D.; Joseph Hornor Coates, William Drayton, William H. Reeves.

The first meeting of the committe was held at the Church House on Friday, March 7th, when the committee decided to undertake to complete the Chapel. The indebtedness incurred in the work done last summer the congregation was willing to carry, but the committee decided it would be better for it to assume this and include it in the amount asked as the money would have had to be raised by the committee if the work had not been done. It was, therefore, decided to raise $40,000, and to ask the generous laymen who had offered to build the chancel if the balance required for the completion of the Chapel could be raised by June 19, 1913, to extend the time to December 19.

R. Francis Wood, Esq., was elected Treasurer, and Mr. George R. Bower, Secretary. As Bishop Garland acted upon a resolution of the Vestry of the Washington Memorial Chapel to undertake this work, and by its resolution the Vestry placed the whole work in the Bishop's hands, the committee will have entire charge of the Chapel, including its actual construction.

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## Dedication of the Screens

### In Memory of General Washington and the Brigadier Generals at Valley Forge.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated at Valley Forge with the dedication of a new memorial, in the Washington Memorial Chapel. Mrs. Sarah Swift Zulich and Miss Elizabeth Swift were the donors of this most recent tribute to the memory of Washington, which commemorates also the Brigadier-Generals at Valley Forge and the parents of the donors, Samuel Swift and Mary Ann Swift.

The memorial is the pew screen in front of the Shippen Pew, which is also the gift of Mrs. Zulich and Miss Swift and their brothers, William H. Swift and Joseph Swift. The screen is of oak, and is divided by two buttresses into three panels. These contain thirteen smaller panels in which are set thirteen battle flags of the Revolution, each carefully carved and colored, and thirteen shields bearing the names of McIntosh, Maxwell, Poor, Glover, Patterson, Wayne, Varnum, Woodford, Muhlenberg, Weedon, Scott, Learned and Huntington.

The following are the flags reproduced: The flag of the 2d Rhode Island Regiment, the Westmoreland County Battalion (Pa.), two flags of the 2d New Hampshire Regiment, 2d Regiment Light Dragoons, the Rattlesnake flag of South Carolina, the Pine Tree flag of New England, the Fort Moultrie flag, flag of the Bucks of America, Webb's Connecticut Regiment, Talmadge's Dragoons, 2d Regiment 2d Connecticut Battalion and the 1st Rhode Island Regiment.

The buttresses are surmounted by angels in worship, representing the Providence of God under which Washington declared the struggles of the American people were alone brought to a happy termination. On the end toward the aisle are the arms of Washington and Joseph Shippen, the ancestor of the donors.

The weather kept many from the service, but a large number braved the unfavorable conditions to take part in the dedication. The Right Reverend Thos. J. Garland, D. D., Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, dedicated the screen and delivered the address. The choirs of the Washington Memorial Chapel under the leadership of Miss Mary M. Hibbs were augmented by choristers from All Saints Church, Norristown. Miss Mary Pugh, the organist of the chapel, was the organist at the service.

The screen was unveiled by Miss Amy Zulich, while the congregation sang "America."

The Rev. Edward R. Noble, Rector of

All Saints Church, Norristown, presented the screen on behalf of the donors, in the following words:

"Right Reverend Father in God, Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of the Washington Memorial Chapel. I have the very great pleasure, in behalf of the donors,

Mrs. Sarah S. Zulich and
Miss Elizabeth Swift,

to present to you this screen—erected in this chapel to the honor and glory of Almighty God and in loving memory of

Samuel Swift and
Mary Ann Swift,

also in memory of

Washington and the Brigadier Generals at Valley Forge.

I would add that this gift is intended to symbolize the interest and sympathy of the donors in the splendid task which you have conceived with vision and so well begun in the spirit of patriotism and Christian faith. Further, it is their earnest hope and prayer that what they have done may be an inspiration to others to assist by prayer, personal service and gift in the completion of this memorial, until the whole shall stand a glorious and useful monument to the love of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and to the self-sacrifice and devotion of those heroic leaders of our national liberties, whose unselfish service and attendant sufferings are associated with this place.

Bishop Garland acepted the gift and dedicated it with the following prayers:

Almighty God, Who from ancient times has put it into the hearts of Thy people to make offerings for Thy service and for the use of Thy sanctuary, and Who hast been pleased at all times to accept gifts at their hands, we pray Thee to accept this memorial which we now set apart in Thy Name. May Thy blessing rest on this gift and on the givers of it, that Thy Church may be benefited, Thy worship made more worthy, and Thy Name may be exalted and glorified continually; we ask this in the Name and for the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord, we dedicate this Pew Screen in the Washington Memorial Chapel to the Glory of God and in memory of General George Washington and his Brigadier Generals at Valley Forge; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Bishop Garland's address was listened to with the keenest interest from the opening words to the last line of his poem which was inspired by the occasion. In response to the requests for copies of the address, we print it in full, and take this opportunity to thank Bishop Garland on behalf of our readers for the privilege. His words are a notable addition to the history of Valley Forge.

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## At Valley Forge.

**A Sermon Preached on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1913, in Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, by Bishop Garland.**

Many historical addresses have been delivered in this Chapel, and it is not my intention to add to their number, but merely to refer in a general way to the connection of this sacred place with the stirring events of the past, to gain some inspiration and learn some lessons for the future.

We commemorate to-day the birth of one who stands pre-eminent as our most illustrious leader, and whom the world acclaims as our greatest citizen. Though years only add to the lustre of his memory, yet his birth was like many others with whom were equally shared the great opportunities of his age. Opportunities do not always come alike to all; but in great crises of history, and in the formative periods when nations are born, there is always a call for leaders. Some hear the call—they climb to the mountain top and see the vision of a future that demands a self elimination—a sacrifice of everything that life holds dear; some stand still and assume a neutral attitude, and others as ignominiously fail to hear the bugle blast that summons them to life's achievements.

Everything depends on the character of those to whom the call comes, and history records how they influence the destiny of the race, and also the influence others have on them in the momentous decision which seldom comes again.

In the great struggle for liberty in the eighteenth century, when European rule had proven impossible, a colonial government unduly limited in power and too prone to exercise despotic sway, a representative and democratic government was demanded; and after successive appeals for justice which fell on ears that were deaf, the patriotism of a people asserted itself, and in a day a new and independent government was born. But the infant had to grow—to struggle for life, and protectors were needed.

Looking back on that noble coterie of men who risked their lives and fortunes, it is conceded by all that Washington's training, character and life marked him as the one to take the most conspicuous part in the great struggle that ensued.

In these modern days many men make a profit in time of war and become rich though countless thousands of others lose their lives, and those dependent on them are left in poverty. But we do not think often enough of the great sacrifice of these Revolutionary soldiers, most of whom gave up the comforts of home without complaint, suffered the privations of the winter, frost and cold and snow. Oh! the sufferings they endured, the pangs of hunger, the sleepless nights, the forced marches, the lack of clothing, the continual hardships!

In the old Greek times a hero was a man like the gods—one who destroyed evil things or persons. And true heroism means more than performing one's duty though men formed of that stuff out of which heroes are made always say "I only did my duty."

I am speaking to-day more particularly of the men at Valley Forge, and of those who remained in service here we can surely say they were heroes. In thinking of the splendid results achieved through their endurance and struggle let us remember that but for the indomitable courage of a commander who never conceded failure, it must have seemed to them, humanly speaking, like a forlorn hope. They knew that there was no easy path to success, no royal road to victory. They were not the kind of men who enlisted because it was a splendid thing to do, and they could hope for a short, decisive campaign, with certainty of victory, and then go home as heroes to brag about the great things they had done. No; it was an enlistment to fight against tremendous odds, with many of their own friends and neighbors divided in sentiment. It was to sacrifice prospects for the stern call of duty, for love of country, for the inherited principles of our race shown in a determination to get justice and liberty or perish in the attempt, for a patriotism that the Declaration of Independence had fanned into an undying flame. Every man under Washington felt and knew that they could place unlimited confidence in him as a leader, as one ready to suffer and endure with them; as one on whom they could depend in every emergency, and who would ultimately conquer and overcome all obstacles.

General Howe was confident that having possession of the two largest cities, the Revolution would soon be at an end; and it is true that with the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and the loss of Philadelphia, began the darkest period of the Revolution. But he had underestimated the genius of Washington, since his first experience in saving a defeated army at Braddocks' field, his other defeats added to his skill in extricating his forces from danger, and he knew that there was only needed the time for discipline and training to make his men invincible. And so Valley Forge was chosen on account of its strategic position and its magnificent command of all the surrounding country. Here the hungry patriots travelled on a path marked with

their bleeding feet; here they were six months encamped, and "Camp Famine" was the subject of every pen. Lafayette wrote: "The unfortunate soldiers were in want of everything; they had neither coats, hats, shirts, nor shoes; their feet and legs froze till they were black, and it was often necessary to amputate them."

Washington wrote to Governor Clinton: "Naked and starving as they are we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiers, that they have not ere this been excited by their suffering to a general mutiny and dispersion."

The doctor wrote that it was difficult to get men enough in condition to do military duty, and those who performed such duty had to borrow clothes from the others in camp.

It was soon found necessary to resort to the authority given by Congress to seize provisions for the starving soldiers. The people of this vicinity were Tories, and they carried everything to Philadelphia to sell for gold.

Christmas must have been a sad day in camp. On December 23d Washington wrote to Congress that "2898 were unfit for duty because barefoot or otherwise naked. Only 8200 were present for duty." Many had to sit up all night to be near the fire, as they had no blankets. The Commander concluded with a rebuke to Congress: "It is easier and less distressing to draw remonstrances in a comfortable room by a good fireside than to occupy a cold bleak hill, and sleep under frost and snow without clothes or blankets. However, though they seem to have little feeling for the naked and distressed soldiers, I feel superabundantly for them, and from my soul I pity those miseries, which it is neither in my power to relieve or prevent."

It is estimated that 3000 perished through this suffering largely due to neglect of Congress, this number being one-third of those who perished in the twenty-six principal engagements of the Revolutionary army. When one remembers this suffering of our brethren here, surely we may regard this ground as our first national cemetery.

The difficulties and hardships of his position were not the only cause of suffering to the devoted leader of the hungry patriots. He had to bear in silence and alone the additional pangs of that miserable intrigue to supplant him in his leadership. So insidious were these attempts that even Lafayette for a time wavered and was shaken, but soon recovered his judgment, and his loyalty and devotion were stronger than ever. But there is much food for thought in the contrast between many of the so-called patriots in Congress in their efforts to degrade Washington, and the calm and dignified bearing of the Commander-in-Chief in loyal devotion to the cause of his country, without any efforts in his own personal defence. Surely the providence of God intervened to stay that diabolical plot and save the new-born nation, and we are reminded of the words of Holy Writ, "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

I would here like to give some simple home touches to the scenes in Valley Forge during this month of that memorable year. One perhaps wonders why the General was anxious for Mrs. Washington's arrival, and why she hastened here, arriving on February 10th. It was her custom to come to headquarters until the opening of the campaign. She said it had been her "good fortune to hear the first cannon at the opening and the last at the closing of all the campaigns of the Revolutionary war." Her coming to camp was always a signal for the wives of the other officers to come. Doubtless there was a special reason for an early arrival, to be here in time for the General's birthday. The privations were then at their worst. On February 16th he wrote: "For some days there has been little less than a famine in the camp." "Some of the men have not had any meat for a week."

The coming of Mrs. Washington (Lady Washington, as she was generally spoken of) brought joy and encouragement to the

poor soldiers; her presence was a blessing to them. New courage came into their hearts as she, with the wives of other officers, came as true helpmeets to suffer the privations and discomforts of the camp; to be ministering angels to them; to make garments, darn and mend for them. From early morning until late at night the General's wife was busy providing comforts for the sick soldiers, and many sweet stories are recorded of her ministrations to the sick, the suffering, and the dying.

I do not think that any historian has given due credit to the women who shared the privations in Valley Forge, and I have suggested to the Rector of this parish that the memorials here will never be complete until there is one to commemorate the loving service and devotion of Mrs. Washington and the wives of the other officers who were with her. My hope is that a rectory shall be built some day as such a memorial. The presence of the wife of the Commander in headquarters, how she entertained there, worked and ministered from that centre, making it a radiating influence in the whole community, would naturally suggest that her memory should be associated with the home life of the leader in the spiritual work of Valley Forge in his service for God and country, where the helpmeet of each succeeding Rector can assist in keeping alive the great foundations of Christian character on which our nation is founded.

I need hardly refer even by name to the notable leaders, such as Greene, Sullivan, Wayne and Knox, who shared with General Washington the responsibility and hardships during this encampment. Or of those great men from other nations, Lafayette, Pulaski, Barons Steuben and DeKalb, who by their presence and skill assisted him in the drilling and develpment of the army.

A few days before Washington's birthday, 1778, the treaties of amity and commerce between France and the United States were signed. What a pity they had not wireless communication in those trying days! What joy and encouragement such a message would have brought! What birthday speeches and congratulations might have been heard in this famine-stricken camp! But it was months later before the welcome news reached the General. On May 1st he had an unofficial message of Franklin's success, and on May 5th the official news was received, and a thanksgiving was held on May 7th. On May 12th Colonel Ethan Allen was joyfully received in camp, and on the same day the Commander-in-Chief and the officers signed the oath required by Congress. Less than a month later the release of another distinguished prisoner was celebrated when General Charles Lee arrived, and on June 9th he also took the oath, even though at this time his mind was filled with treacherous schemes.

Digressing for a moment and looking back at the early history of our country, Spain controlling the southern portion of our Continent, France the northern, and England the middle, we can thank God that Anglo-Saxon civilization became predominant. This was in large degree due to the work of Washington and his patriotic associates. The birth of this nation meant much to us; we can form an estimate of it by considering what the United States would have been if the French traditions of Quebec had been ours, or the Spanish civilization of Mexico.

A nation's greatness consists in the Christian character of its people, and measured by this standard our nation was rich in the personal character of its founders. And let us not underestimate what it meant to the stability of our nation that the vast majority (about two-thirds) of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were members of our Church. Some do not understand, and therefore minimize the religious character of Washington and others of his age. But we churchmen understand them, by their lives and fruits we judge them; not by

their expressions of religious cant, but by their consistent Christian lives.

The Providential care and guidance of God over the affairs of our country is emphasized from the individual standpoint when we think of Washington. God does not work directly to His purpose through the mass of men collectively, but through the wills of individual men working for a common cause in devotion to the common good He fulfils His purpose.

(Continued in April Number.)

## The Washington Chapel Chronicle.

With this number the Washington Chapel Guild ceases to be the publisher of the "Chronicle." In giving up this work it wants to thank its subscribers for their help and encouragement in the past. It has been no small task to publish the paper, but the work has been done gladly and we believe has contributed to the success which the Chapel has already achieved.

After careful consideration of several plans the Rev. Mr. Herbert Burk has decided to assume the responsibility for the publication of the Chronicle. For the present Mr. Burk will act as editor and publisher. Subscribers are therefore asked to renew their subscriptions promptly, using the enclosed slip and envelope. It ought to be a matter of pride with our subscribers not to let the new publisher bear any of the cost of publication. A little effort on your part will secure many new subscriptions. Send the names at once and thus assure Mr. Burk of your interest and give him the encouragement which he deserves in this work.

## The Rev. Mr. Finn's Illness.

The many friends of the Rev. Francis T. H. Finn, formerly the assistant in this Mission, are grieved to learn of his illness at Saranac Lake. For some time there have been prayers for him at every service of the Chapel and Mission at King-of-Prussia.

**Washington Memorial Chapel,**
**Valley Forge, Pa.**

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, B. D.
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## A Letter from Rev. Mr. Burk.

Valley Forge, March 14, 1913.

To the Subscribers of the Washington Chapel Chronicle:

In order that the "Chronicle" may be continued I have decided to assume all the responsibility for its publication. In doing this I believe I can count on your help and that with a little effort the list of subscribers can be extended to such an extent that the subscription will pay for the printing. We need 450 subscribers at 25 cents each.

How many will you secure? On my part I assure the readers that my best efforts will be given to the production of a paper along the lines that I laid down for the recent publishers, the Washington Chapel Guild.

Hoping for your support, I am,

Faithfully yours,

W. HERBERT BURK.

## The Boy Scouts Celebrate Washington's Birthday.

It was certainly a good testing day on Saturday, February 22d, for Scouts to turn out to visit Valley Forge and attend the Washington memorial service there that morning. Philadelphia Council asked that they be permitted to join in the event, and a welcome invitation was given them.

It was a dreary morning, such a one as Valley Forge has seen many times during and since the eventful winter which made it famous in history making. Despite the rain there were 70 Scouts from Delaware and Montgomery counties and 160 from Philadelphia county.

The Scouts filled the Memorial Chapel

at 11.30 to listen to a most interesting address on Washington and Valley Forge by the Rev. W. Herbert Burk. The service was most impressive, and was an inspiration to those assembled.

Mr. Burk took occasion at the opening of his address to express his apreciation of having such a fine bunch of Scouts attend, and hoped that it would be made an annual event, as he felt much good could be gained from visiting Valley Forge.

Many lessons from the life of Washington were drawn for the Scouts, especially the years in which he was moulding his manhood, as the Scouts present were doing. His splendid character as a man was due to the excellent training received as a boy. Mention was made of the exactness and accuracy of his drawings as a surveyor.

The thrift shown by Washington in the construction of the huts built at Valley Forge and use being made of every part of the trees cut down was an example for Scouts to follow. Washington saw a vision of his DUTY, and remained true to it, and it was this spirit and his dependence on the One above for direction and support which gained for him the loyalty and support of his fellow countrymen.

The service was a most helpful one, and all Scouts who attended will look forward to the meet next year with pleasure.

After the service the Scouts retired to the camping ground back of the chapel, where they prepared and ate their lunch.

Showers still persisted, but the Scouts were just as persistent to see more of Valley Forge, and started out to make a tour at 2 p. m. At 3 o'clock the rain let up and enabled the Troops to get around with more comfort. By 5 o'clock all were on their way home, the nearby troops hiking and those from distant points returning by train.

The Scouts and officers thank Mr. Burk for his helpful service and hospitality, and wish him much success in cultivating a warm place in every American's heart for Valley Forge.—The Boy Scouts Bulletin for March, 1913.

## Gffts to the Museum.

Among the guests at the Dedication of the Brigadier Generals' Screen was J. M. Fox, Esq., of Philadelphia. Mr. Fox is deeply interested in the Museum, to which he has made important contributions. On this occasion he brought with him a rare old oil painting entitled "AMERICA." It bears the following dedication: "To perpetuate to Posterity, the Memory of those PATRIOTIC HEROES; who Fought, Bled & Died, in establishing PEACE, LIBERTY & TRANQUILITY to their COUNTRY." It is the work of

The picture is highly allegorical. To the left war is represented by a fort, wreckage and a burning town. America kneels by an altar on which are inscribed the names WARREN, MONTGOMERY, WOOSTER, MERCER. Upon it are laid bows and arrows. The angel of peace is bringing the olive branch from heaven, while to the right Hercules (?) (perhaps Power) Liberty, Law and Agriculture pay tribute to America, and Ceres pours out her gifts, surrounded with the emblems of Commerce and Agriculture.

Mr. Fox also presented a fine old Staffordshire bowl, twelve and one-half inches in diameter and four and one-half inches high. It is adorned with a picture of the "Upper Ferry Bridge on the River Schuylkill."

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Through the courtesy of the Diocesan Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions the Rev. Mr. Burk was enabled to make an appeal for help for the Chapel. The meeting, which was very largely attended, was held in the Church House on Wednesday, February 26. On Wednesday, March 12, Mr. Burk visited the Church of Our Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, and spoke on "Rural Missions," illustrating his address with accounts of his experiences in the Valley Forge Mission.